

WELCOME TO THE DNR BUTTERFLY GARDEN

Tended by the Division of Entomology & Plant Pathology

Plants you will find in the DNR Butterfly Garden:

Common Name	Scientific Name	Annual/Perennial	Food/Nectar Source
Ageratum	<i>Eupatorium</i> spp.	perennial/annual	nectar
Alyssum	<i>Lobularia maritima</i>	annual	nectar
Bachelors Button	<i>Centaurea</i> spp.	perennial/annual	nectar
Bee Balm	<i>Monarda didyma</i>	perennial	nectar
Birch	<i>Betula</i> spp.	tree	food
Black-eyed Susan	<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	perennial	nectar
Blazing star	<i>Liatris spicata</i>	perennial	nectar
Blue Globe Thistle	<i>Echinops bannaticus</i>	perennial	nectar
Butterfly Bush	<i>Buddleia</i> spp.	shrub	nectar
Butterfly weed	<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	perennial	nectar & food
Clethra, Summersweet	<i>Clethra alnifolia</i>	shrub	nectar
Coreopsis	<i>Coreopsis grandiflora</i>	perennial	nectar
Cosmos	<i>Cosmos</i> spp.	annual	nectar
Dahlias	<i>Dahlia</i> spp.	perennial, tender	nectar
Dame's Rocket	<i>Hesperis matronalis</i>	perennial	nectar
Day lilies	<i>Heemerocallis</i> spp.	perennial	nectar
Dianthus, Zing Rose	<i>Dianthus</i> spp.	perennial	nectar
Dianthus	<i>Dianthus</i> spp.	annual	nectar
Dianthus, Pin cushion	<i>Dianthus</i> spp.	perennial	nectar
Dill	<i>Anethum graveolens</i>	annual	food
Fall Mums	<i>Chrysanthemum morifolium</i>	perennial	nectar
False Spirea	<i>Astilbe chinensis</i>	perennial	nectar
False Sunflower	<i>Heliopsis helianthoides</i>	perennial	nectar
Ironweed	<i>Vernonia fasciculata</i>	wildflower	food & nectar
Joe Pye Weed	<i>Eupatorium</i> spp.	perennial	nectar
Lantana	<i>Lantana</i> spp.	annual	nectar
Lavender	<i>Lavendula angustifolia</i>	perennial	nectar
Lily	<i>Lilium</i> spp.	perennial	nectar
Marigold	<i>Tagetes</i> spp.	annual	nectar
Marsh milkweed	<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>	perennial	nectar & food
Mexican sunflower	<i>Tithonia grandiflora</i>	annual	nectar
Moonbeam coreopsis	<i>Coreopsis verticillata</i>	perennial	nectar
New England Aster	<i>Aster novae-angliae</i>	perennial	nectar

Oregano	<i>Origanum</i> spp.	perennial	nectar
Parsley	<i>Petroselinum crispum</i>	biannual	food
Petunia	<i>Petunia x hybrida</i>	annual	nectar
Phlox	<i>Phlox paniculata</i>	perennial	nectar
Pipevine	<i>Aristolochia</i> spp.	vine	food
Purple coneflower	<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>	perennial	nectar
Queen Ann's Lace	<i>Daucus carota</i> var.	wildflower	food & nectar
Redbud	<i>Cercis Canadensis</i>	tree	food
Rhea/Salvia	<i>Salvia</i> spp.	annual	nectar
Russian sage	<i>Perovskia artiplicifolia</i>	perennial	nectar
Salvia/ Violet sage	<i>Salvia x superba</i>	perennial	nectar
Sedum, Autumn Joy	<i>Sedum</i> spp.	perennial	nectar
Sedum/Stonecrop	<i>Sedum</i> spp.	perennial	nectar
Shasta daisy	<i>Chrysanthemum superbum</i>	perennial	nectar
Snapdragon	<i>Antirrhinum</i> spp.	annual	nectar
Sneezeweed	<i>Helenium</i> spp.	perennial	food & nectar
Speedwell	<i>Veronica</i> spp.	perennial	nectar
Spicebush	<i>Lindera benzoin</i>	shrub	food
Spiderfower	<i>Cleome hassleriana</i>	annual	nectar
Sunflower	<i>Helianthus</i> spp.	annual	nectar
Sweet William	<i>Dianthus barbatus</i>	biannual	nectar
Yarrow	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	perennial	nectar
Zinnias	<i>Zinnia</i> spp.	annual	nectar

Some other plants for butterfly gardening:

Alfalfa	<i>Medicago sativa</i>	perennial	food & nectar
Apple	<i>Malus</i> spp.	tree	food
Aspen	<i>Populus</i> Spp.	tree	food
Beans	<i>Phaseolus</i> spp.	vegetable	food
Blanket flower	<i>Gaillardia</i> spp.	perennial	nectar
Blueberry	<i>Vaccinium</i> spp.	shrub	food
Boneset	<i>Eupatorium perfoliatum</i>	wildflower	nectar
Button Bush	<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	perennial bush	nectar
Cabbage, broccoli	<i>Brassica</i> spp.	vegetable	food
Carrots	<i>Daucus carota</i> var. <i>sativus</i>	vegetable	food
Catmint	<i>Nepeta x faassenii</i>	perennial	nectar
Cherry, plum	<i>Prunus</i> spp.	trees	food
Common Milkweed	<i>Asclepias syriaca</i>	wildflower	food
Creeping Thyme	<i>Thymus serpyllum</i>	annual	food

Dandelion	<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>	wildflower	nectar
Dogbane	<i>Apocynum</i> spp.	wildflower	food
Dogwood	<i>Cornus</i> spp.	tree	food
Elm	<i>Ulmus</i> spp.	tree	food
Everlasting	<i>Gnaphalium</i> spp.	wildflower	food
False foxglove	<i>Aureolaria pedicularia</i>	perennial	food
False indigo	<i>Amorpha</i> spp.	shrub	food
Goldenrod	<i>Solidago</i> spp.	perennial	nectar
Golden Marguerite	<i>Anthemis tinctoria</i>	annual	nectar
Hackberry	<i>Celtis</i> spp.	tree	food
Heliotrope	<i>Heliotropium arborescens</i>	annual	nectar
Hollyhocks	<i>Alcea</i> spp.	perennial	food
Hops	<i>Humulus</i> spp.	perennial	food
Locust	<i>Robinia</i> spp.	tree	food
Lupine	<i>Lupinus perennis</i>	wildflower	food
Mexican Hat	<i>Ratibida columnifera</i>	perennial	nectar
Mealy cup sage	<i>Salvia farinacea</i>	annual	nectar
Mints	<i>Mentha</i> spp.	perennial	nectar
Nicotiana	<i>Nicotiana alata</i>	annual	nectar
Oak	<i>Quercus</i> spp.	tree	food
Obedient plant	<i>Physostegia virginiana</i>	perennial	nectar
Passion flower	<i>passiflora</i> spp.	vine	nectar
Paw Paw	<i>Asimina</i> spp.	tree	food
Plantain	<i>Plantago</i> spp.	wildflower	food & nectar
Privet	<i>Ligustrum</i> spp.	shrub	nectar
Red clover	<i>Trifolium pretense</i>	wildflower	nectar
Rue	<i>Ruta graveolens</i>	perennial	food
Senna	<i>Cassia</i> spp.	wildflower	food
Sweet fennel	<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	perennial	food
Sweet Marjoram	<i>Origanum marjorana</i>	perennial	nectar
Sweet pea	<i>Lathyrus adoratus</i>	annual	food & nectar
Verbena	<i>Verbena regida</i>	perennial	nectar
Veronica	<i>Veronica</i> spp.	perennial	nectar
Violet	<i>Viola</i> spp.	perennial	food
Wild Bergamot	<i>Monarda fistulosa</i>	wildflower	nectar
Willow	<i>Salix</i> spp.	tree	food
Winter cress	<i>Barnarea vulgaris</i>	perennial	food & nectar
Wormwood	<i>Artemisia</i> spp.	perennial	food & nectar
Yellow coneflower	<i>Ratibida pinnata</i>	perennial	nectar

If you are interested in starting a butterfly garden incorporate plants of different but overlapping blooming seasons. Watch the butterflies in your area to see what flowers you see them on then incorporate them into your garden. Try plants that can be used as host plants for eggs and caterpillars as well as nectar sources for adults. Have open sunny areas in the garden. This is for both the plants and the butterflies. Walls made of rocks or plants can help provide shelter from rain, winds, cold and predators. Provide puddles or damp places in the garden. Butterflies gather at puddles of water or mud to drink the water and salts that the puddle provides. Do not use pesticides in the garden. You could kill butterflies as well as pest insects if you use pesticides.

Do some homework when picking plants for the garden. Know how much sun is needed, height, bloom time and hardiness zone of the plants. Some plants may need room to spread or take precautions that they do not get out of control. Some plants will need certain soil type to grow. Check your local nurseries if they carry the plants or could order the plants for you. Some common wildflowers (milkweed) you may be able to collect the seeds. Get a good butterfly garden book such as:

“Stokes Butterfly Book, The Complete Guide to Butterfly Gardening, Identification and Behavior” by Donald and Lillian Stokes

“Butterflies, How to Identify and Attract Them to Your Garden” by Marcus Schneck.